

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00849 181843Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 INR-05 SP-02 L-01 PM-03
SSO-00 INRE-00 /036 W
-----181848Z 001561 /40
O 181703Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9435

S E C R E T NASSAU 0849

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINR PINS MPOA BF US
SUBJECT: INTERDICTION OPERATION-BAHAMIAN ASSISTANCE

1. NLO AND I WERE BRIEFED ON ABOVE SUBJECT ON TUESDAY,
JUNERE BRIEFED ON ABOVE SUBJECT TUESDAY,
JUNE 14 BY CUSTOMS AGENT WIENRAUB OF MIAMI CUSTOMS OFFICE.
GIST OF BRIEFING WAS THAT CUSTOMS HAD LEARNED OF POSSIBLE
ATTEMPT BY CUBAN EXILE ELEMENT TO CARRY OUT AN ACTION
AGAINST A CUBAN PATROL VESSEL IN THE CABA ROMANO AREA.
ACCORDING TO WEINTRAUB, EXILES NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY
18, WOULD BE SAILING FROM FLORIDA AROUND JUNE 21 BOUND
FOR CAY SAL OR FLORIDA CAYS AT WHICH POINT MOTHER VESSEL
WOULD RENDEVOUS WITH THREE ATTACK VESSELS WHO WOULD THEN
PROCEED TO CARRY OUT MISSION. UPON COMPLETION OF MISSION
CUBAN EXILES WOULD ATTEMPT TO RETREAT TO SOZTHERN ANDROS FROM
WHERE THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN TO U.S. EMBASSY WAS
REQUESTED TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR WEINTRAUB TO BRIEF
COMMISSIONER OF BAHAMIAN POLICE AND TO REQUEST THAT
BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY COAST
GUARD/US CUSTOMS IN THEKR INTERDICTION EFFORTS. PERMISSION
WAS GRANTED, BRIEFING WAS HELD THAT SAME AFTERNOON AND POLICE
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WERE AMENABLE BUT STIPULATED THAT MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MUST GIVE APPROVAL. WIENTRAUB ASSURED ME THAT DEPARTMENT HAD
BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON OPERATION.

2. IN ABSENCE FROM ISLAND OF PERMSEC RUSSELL WHO USUALLY
HANDLES SUCH REQUESTS, I TELEPHONED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH
MINEXTAFF/ATTYGEN ADDERLEY. GIVEN PRESS OF LEGAL AND POLITICAL

PROBLEMS WHICH NOW OCCUPY HIS FULL ATTENTION, I SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH ACTINGPERMSEC HEPBURN WHO WAS BRIEFED ON THURSDAY MORNING. HEPBURN PROMISED TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS AND "IF" HE COULD FIND ADDERLEY. REPEATED FOLLOW UPS HAVE FAILED TO ELICIT A RESPONSE EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.

3. FOLLOWING APPRISAL TODAY OF DOD REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO PERFORM AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER BAHAMIAN WATERS I WAS AT LAST SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THROUGH TO ADDERLEY WHO: 1) GAVE GO AHEAD FOR RECONNAISSANCE; 2) STATED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO AUTHORIZE BAHAMIAN POLICE TO GO ABOARD U.S. VESSEL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND 3) REQUESTED THAT HE BE KEPT INFORMED OF SITUATION. ADDERLEY SOMEWHAT SARCASTICALLY INQUIRED AS TO WHY WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO "CATCH" THEM BEFORE THEY LEFT U.S. STRONGLY IMPLYING THAT THIS, FOR HIM, WOULD BE THE PERFECT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

4. EMBASSY CAN ONLY GUESS AT REASON FOR ADDERLEY'S NEGATIVE RESPONSE FOR BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE TO TAKE PART IN EXERCISE (A RESPONSE WHICH HIGHLY DISPLEASED AT LEAST ONE SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL) BUT IT IS OUR READUFG THAT GIVEN PRE-ELECTION ATMOSPHERE HE WOULD PREFER TO MAKE NO DECISION THAT MIGHT LATER PROVE TO BE IN ANY WAY CONTROVERSIAL, AND AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE CUBA AND CUBAN EXILES ARE IN BAHAMIAN CONTECT BOTH HIGHLY CHARGED ISSUES. IN ADDITION, ADDERLEY IS BY NATURE A PROCRASTINATOR AND ONLY MAKES HARD DECISIONS WHEN THEY ARE LITTERALY FORCED UPON HIM. BY REFUSING PERMISSION AT THIS TIME HE NO DOUBT FEELS

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THAT HE HAS BOUGHT ADDITIONAL TIME. SHOULD THE SITUATION DEVELOP SO THAT A SUBSEQUENT AND EVEN MORE URGENT REQUEST FOR COOPERATION PROVE NECESSARY, WE SUSPECT THAT, DEPENDENT UPON CIRCUMSTANCE, HE MIGHT WELL REVERSE HIMSELF. BARRING THAT, OUR ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO APPROACH PRIME MINISTER DIRECTLY. IN ANY EVENT WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR JOHNSON BE MADE AU CURRANT AND THAT BOTH HE AND ADDERLEY (THROUGH EMBASSY) BE KEPT INFORMED AS EVENTS UNFOLD.

5. A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL GIVE THE DEPARTMENT AN ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT CAPABILITIES, OR RATHER LACK THEREOF, OF BAHAMIAN MARINE POLICE.
TAYLOR

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NNN

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Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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